

BALKAN MOUNTAINEERING UNION

**STATUTE
OF THE
BALKAN MOUNTAINEERING UNION**

May, 2011

Skopje

Having regard to Article 18 of the Law on Organizations and Foundations (The Official Gazette of the RM, n. 52/2010) and the stipulations of the Law on Sports (The Official Gazette of the RM, n. 29/2002 and 66/2004), as well as Article 23 of the Statute of the **Balkan Mountaineering Union**, the Founders' Assembly held on 28th of May 2011, adopted the following

**STATUTE
of the
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I. GENERAL STIPULATIONS

Article 1

The **Balkan Mountaineering Union (hereinafter BMU)** is a voluntary association of the official mountaineering organizations on the territory of the Balkan Peninsula. It was established by free association of the national mountaineering organizations of the Balkan states with the aim of fulfillment and coordination of the common goals and interests and for performing activities related to mountaineering in all Balkan states.

Article 2

BMU will perform its aims and tasks according to the Constitution, the Law on Organization and Foundations, the Law on Sports and other laws, and according to this Statute.

Article 3

The name of the organization is **BALKAN MOUNTAINEERING UNION** and its abbreviation is **BMU**.

Article 4

The Union is a legal body. It is a nonparty, non-governmental and nonprofit organization.

Article 5

The Seat of BMU is in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia at the office of the Macedonian Mountaineering Sports Federation, address: 11 Oktomvri br. 42, 1000 Skopje.

BMU functions on the territories of the Balkan States.

Article 6

BMU has a logo (emblem). The logo (emblem) represents a stylized mountain with three summits of which the highest has a snow cover.

Below them is the abbreviation BMU in which graphic elements reminding of mountain are incorporated; the shadow of the letter 'B' is fir-shaped, the letter 'M' representing mountain summits.

In the lower part of the logo the name of the **BALKAN MOUNTAINEERING UNION** in English is written.

The colours of the emblem are light blue, black and white.

Article 7

The BMU flag is silky, blue, and the logo (emblem) of BMU is in its middle.

In the upper part of the flag the name of **BALKAN MOUNTAINEERING UNION** in English is inscribed longitudinally.

The flag is rectangular, ratio 2:1. It has silver-white fringed ends.

Article 8

BMU has a seal and a stamp.

The seal is circular and has the following text:

BALKAN MOUNTAINEERING UNION

In the centre of the seal is the logo (emblem) of BMU.

The stamp is rectangular and has the following text:

Balkan Mountaineering Union, reference number, date and Skopje.

II PURPOSES AND TASKS

Article 9

The BMU has the following purposes:

- a) The BMU encourages, develops and supports the practice of all forms of mountaineering and climbing in the international field. It seeks solutions to all fundamental problems of international importance and is committed to provide leadership to the Balkan mountaineering community on all matters of common international concern.
- b) The BMU seeks durable relations with its associated member associations and their leading personalities in the spirit of friendly and close co-operation. It fosters this aim by encouraging meetings and activities, by stimulating understanding among mountaineers of all nations and by promoting knowledge concerning mountaineering. It urges its member associations to extend to the members of other member associations the benefits granted to their own members according to the principle of reciprocity.
- c) The BMU seeks to safeguard and secure access and responsible use of all mountain areas and promotes awareness of, and respect for, the environment among all users of mountain terrain. It encourages and promotes safety in all aspects of climbing, mountaineering and rambling.
- d) The BMU supports and governs on an international level those competitions and mountaineering sports which are recognized by decision of its Assembly. It represents

those sports within other international organizations, including Associations of Sports Associations and Olympic Committees in the countries of the members of BMU.

Article 10

The BMU fulfils its purposes by:

- Organizing international mountaineering expeditions in all mountaineering sports;
- Organizing seminars, courses for vocational training in all mountaineering sports, as well as by marking and maintaining the mountaineering trails and facilities and other nature and mountain activities;
- Presenting the natural beauties and mountain life through exhibitions, reports and articles in the media, lectures and other informative means;
- Cooperation with the state organs, with other similar organizations and federations in accomplishing the tasks of common interest;
- Taking care and participation in protection of the environment, nature and the monuments of culture.

Article 11

The BMU has annual program.

The working program is adopted by the General Assembly of the BMU.

III TRANSPARENCY

Article 12

The work of the BMU is public.

Transparency is provided by regular reports submitted by BMU members on all types of activities, with insight in performing the program tasks by submitting reports on the work of the organs and bodies of the BMU regarding the finances and other matters.

Article 13

Members of the BMU and the wider audience are informed via the BMU Magazine (www.bmumagazine.com), which is in English, the resumes of the articles being in the languages of the members.

The information to the media is sent either by the President of BMU or a member of the Executive Board of BMU.

Article 14

BMU has the following web site: www.bmumagazine.com.

BMU has the following e-mail address: contact@bmumagazine.com

BMU publishes on its web site reports of mountaineering activities, annual reports as well as financial reports.

The annual report on the activities and the annual financial report for the previous year are published on the web site of BMU not later than April, 30th of the current year.

Article 15

Language

English is the official language for the Articles of Union, Regulations, Minutes, official correspondence and official communication.

English is also the official language in Assembly and Executive Board meetings. Delegates may, however, address these bodies in their own language, provided they arrange, at their own costs, for their speeches to be translated into English.

Article 16

The BMU can become a member of an international federation or other mountaineering organization based on a decision adopted by the General Assembly of the BMU.

IV. OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Article 17

- a) All activities of the BMU are independent of any political or governmental influence and are conducted without financial gain.
- b) The BMU shall not interfere in the internal matters of its member associations.
- c) The BMU shall not undertake any activity which is more effectively done by its member associations.

V. MEMBERS

Article 18

The BMU has the following members:

a) Members with voting rights

Official mountaineering association or federation can become a member with voting rights of the BMU. For each country, only one organization may have the right to vote.

b) Observer member

Multinational, trans-regional or other mountaineering organizations and institutions that are engaged in the study of mountains, mountain protection or similar activities may be admitted as observer members with consensus of all members of BMU without the right to vote.

Organizations from the countries which are members of the BMU wishing to candidate for observing members need a permission from an official mountaineering organization or federation in order to apply.

c) Honorary members

Persons of particular merit to the BMU, to international mountaineering or to preservation of the mountain environment may be elected as honorary members.

They have no right to vote.

Article 19

Statutes and activities of member associations may not contradict the Articles of Union and activity of the BMU.

Article 20

Obligation of the Members

The members of BMU have the following obligations:

- a) All member associations shall comply with these Articles of Union and are obliged to comply with appropriate resolutions adopted by the BMU bodies.
- b) The members agree to respect their mutual autonomy and in no way to harm the development of the other members. In particular, the members cannot found sections abroad without the explicit permission of the national association representing the concerned country within the BMU.

VI. BODIES

Article 21

The BMU functions through the following bodies:

- Assembly
- Executive Board
- President
- Auditors
- General Secretary
- Commissions

VII. ASSEMBLY

Article 22

Assembly is the supreme body of the BMU. It convenes at least once per year. Organization of the Assembly shall be entrusted alternately to one of the member associations, what is agreed on the Assemblies.

Every member association is entitled to be represented at the Assembly by a delegation which consists of 3 (three) participants.

The calling notice must be sent to all member associations at least three months prior to the date set for the Assembly.

The Executive Board must call an extraordinary Assembly on request of the one third of the member associations entitled to vote. Such an Assembly must be convened within three months of the date a valid request has been made and the full agenda must be sent not later than two months before the date set. Any such Assembly will be located and organized by the Executive Board.

Article 23

Powers of the Assembly

The Assembly has the following powers:

- to adopt and amend the Statute and the other Union acts
- to adopt an annual report, directions and plan for work which are published at the Union's web site
- to adopt a financial report, financial statement and financial plan which are published at the Union's web site
- to elect the President for a mandate of 4 years
- to elect the members of the Executive Board and the Auditors
- to decide unanimously the admission and exclusion of members
- to give directions for Union's activities
- to approve development and working plans
- to adopt the Union's Activities program
- to elect Union representatives in international mountaineering and other organizations of which the Union is a member
- to decide on the status changes of the Union and for membership in similar organization
- to elect honorary members
- to decide about the Union dismissal with a two third majority
- to receive, discuss and approve the report of Executive Board and those of the Auditors and the Commissions
- to fix the budget
- to decide for which sports (disciplines) the BMU recognises and governs competitions. The Assembly may, by Regulations, authorise a special organisation for such disciplines (sports) and determine its competences
- to decide in the last instance on the acceptance of the text of any declaration to be published in the name of the BMU
- to decide in the last instance about all questions presented to it by other bodies of the BMU
- to deal with other things of which it is empowered by the Law, this Statute and other Union acts, as well as to decide all matters which no other body is competent to decide.

Article 24

Voting Rights

- a) At any Assembly, each member association shall be represented by one delegation, which may be assisted by maximum three advisors
- b) Each delegation has 1 (one) vote which is expressed by the official chief of delegation.
- c) A member association which has not paid its dues in full, prior to the Assembly is not entitled to exercise any vote.
- d) Any member association may be represented by the delegation of another member association being duly entitled to vote by means of a written proxy. Such proxies must

be submitted to the Office of BMU prior to the meeting. One delegation may not represent more than one other member association at the same time.

e) Amendment of these Articles of Union and dissolution of the BMU may only be considered if such items are fully described in the agenda circulated prior to the meeting and if at least half of the member association with voting rights are present or represented. To be adopted, such items must receive the approval of two thirds of the votes cast.

f) For all other decisions of the Assembly, there is no quorum. Decisions are taken with the majority of votes cast.

g) Voting at the Assembly is conducted by show of hands. Upon the request of any delegation, supported by at least one other delegation, any vote must be taken by secret written ballot.

h) Resolutions of the Assembly may also be adopted by written or electronic correspondence. In any such case, however, such adoption requires an absolute affirmative majority of all member associations and if two member associations demand discussion on the matter, it must be held over until the next Assembly.

i) Any member association may contest resolutions of the Assembly that violate the law or these Articles of Union and to which it has not consented, within one month of having taken notice thereof, by appeal to the Court at the seat of the BMU. For member associations not present or represented at the Assembly, the sending of the official BMU Bulletin containing the minutes of the Assembly to the last known address of the association shall constitute the start of the period of one month mentioned above.

Article 25

Agenda and the Right to Introduce Proposals

a) Items for inclusion on the agenda of any Assembly may be presented by:

1. Any member association
2. Executive Board
3. Auditors, within the bounds of their competence
4. President of the BMU
5. Commission within the bounds of its competence

b) Any such item shall be submitted to the BMU Office at least 12 (twelve) weeks before Assembly.

c) The full agenda shall be sent to the member associations at least three weeks before the Assembly.

d) Upon affirmative vote of no less than two-thirds of its voting power, the Assembly itself may add items to the agenda of any meeting. Additional items shall be treated at the end of the agenda.

Article 26

The Assembly meetings are called by the President of the Assembly.

An Assembly meeting is also called by a proposition of the Executive Board or by 1/5 of the total number of Assembly members.

If the President of the Assembly does not call a meeting within 90 days of the day of the proposal, the meeting is called by the Executive Board or the initiators.

Assembly meeting on the work of the Executive Board may be called with a proposition of the Executive Board.

An Extraordinary Assembly may be held after a written demand of one third of the Union members.

The Extraordinary Assembly is called not later than 60 days after the request for it was submitted.

Assembly and the adoption of decisions can happen without the presence of the members of the Assembly with the use of the communication technologies achievements, as well as conference calls, e-mail correspondence and other electronic possibilities.

The mode for call for sessions is determined in detail with the working agenda.

Article 27

The decision for call for Assembly meeting and the agenda proposal are announced at least 45 days prior to the Assembly.

The Assembly can work and validly decide if more than half of all members are present.

Article 28

The members of the Executive Board and the Auditors participate in the work of the Assembly with no voting rights on the reports they have submitted to the Assembly.

Article 29

The Assembly elects its Executive Board from its own members on the regular or extraordinary meetings.

Article 30

The Assembly takes the decision with majority of votes of the members present.

2. Executive Board

Article 31

The Executive Board of the BMU is the Assembly's executive body where all members have equal rights, duties and responsibilities regarding the work and the development of the Union according to the Statute.

Article 32

- a) The Executive Board of the BMU consists of the following officers:
- President
 - Secretary General
 - 3 (three) persons elected by the Assembly. The duties and responsibilities of all members of the Executive Board, except those of the President, will be assigned by the Board internally.
- b) The members of the Executive Board shall be elected by the Assembly upon the recommendation of the association members, for a term of four years. The President may be re-elected to only one further term; other members of the Executive Board for two further terms.
- c) Executive Board members are elected on a personal basis, have no mandate from their member associations and are to act independently from these. No member of the Executive Board shall also be a representative of a member association in the Assembly.

Article 33

The Executive Board has the following powers:

- to prepare and call the Assembly meetings
- to propose adoption and amendment of Statute and other Union acts adopted by the Assembly and to prepare its drafts.
- to make proposals on the working program of the Union and to take care of its performing
- to execute the decisions and other acts adopted by the Assembly
- to establish intermittently subsidiary bodies, to name their members and control their work
- to adopt plans for work of the subsidiary bodies
- to prepare annual and interim reports about its work and to submit them to the Assembly
- to decide on awards and acknowledgments
- to deal with other things of interest of Union's successful work
- to make recommendations to the Assembly on the acceptance of the accounts and budget and admission and expulsion of member associations
- to supervise the running of the Commissions by creating and dissolving them, designating their tasks and responsibilities, electing and removing their members, making recommendations to the Assembly on the Reports of the Commissions
- to request an Extraordinary Assembly
- to carry out the tasks delegated to it by the Assembly.

Article 34

The Executive Board shall prepare the agenda for all meetings of Assembly and ensure the adequacy of arrangements for such meetings. It shall provide for the execution of all decisions made at such meetings. It shall also co-ordinate the activities of the Commissions.

The members of the Executive Board shall participate in all meeting of the Assembly, but without any vote.

The Executive Board is responsible for the function of the administrative office of the BMU, managed by General Secretary who is not a member of the Executive Board.

Article 35

The Executive Board is responsible for its work in front of the Union Assembly.
The Executive Board meets and has session when necessary.
The Executive Board meeting is called by the President.

Proposals for calls for Executive Board meetings can be submitted by one half of the members of the Executive Board, one third of the representatives at the Assembly, Auditors and the General Secretary.

The meeting is conducted by the President. In case of his absence, a member elected by the Executive Board takes over.

3. President

Article 36

The President is Union's legal representative as well as representative toward third parties.

The President is elected for a term of 4 years with the right for re-election.
The Union's President is simultaneously President of the Executive Board.

The President is the most responsible person for the enactment of the Statute. For certain decisions of the Executive Board which are not in accordance to the Statute, the President has a right to veto.

Article 37

The President:

- represents the Union
- conducts the Assembly and Executive Board meetings
- calls the Executive Board and conducts its work
- takes care of the Union activities.

Article 38

All statements and contracts which bind the BMU must be signed by the President and one other member of the Board. In case of absence, The President may be replaced by another member of the Executive Board.

The President, or his designee from the Executive Board, is entitled to attend and participate in all Commission meetings, but without vote.

The President may, occasionally, delegate various aspects of BMU management to other members of the Executive Board or to the administrative staff.

In the case of death or disability of the President, the General Secretary shall assume his duties until the next Assembly. Should the General Secretary in turn be unable to fulfil his obligations, the member of the Executive Board who has served on the Executive Board the longest shall assume his duties and convene an extraordinary Assembly in order to elect appropriate replacement.

Article 39

General Secretary

- a) General Secretary performs the policy of BMU
- b) Effects the decisions of Assembly, Executive Board and President
- c) Prepares meetings of Executive Board and Assembly
- d) Coordinates the mutual work of the members of BMU
- e) Promotes the program of BMU in the public
- f) Coordinates the work of the commissions

5. Auditors

Article 40

For enactments of the statutory and program tasks and decisions of the Assembly and the Executive Board, the Assembly elects Auditors.

The Auditors control the enactment of this Statute, the imprest fund, the assets and the incomes of the BMU.

The Auditors submit their decisions to the Assembly and the Executive Board.

Article 41

Three members elected by the Assembly constitute the Auditors. Their mandate is 4 years with the right for re-election.

The Auditors elect their own President during their mandate.

The Auditors:

- take care of the enactment of the Statute and other acts
- audit the enactment of directions and decisions of the Assembly.

It is a responsibility of the Auditors to provide free access to all documents and data regarding the use of financial means and incomes of the BMU.

The Auditors shall meet at least once a year.

The President of the Auditors participates in Executive Board meetings with no vote.

The Auditors can request from the Executive Board to call meeting of the Assembly in lieu with the audit.

For all steps taken, the Auditors inform the Assembly and are responsible in front of it.

6. Commissions

Article 42

The Executive Board can appoint Commissions for special tasks or to serve in fields requiring specific expertise. The mandate of each Commission shall be reviewed by the Executive Board at least once every four years to determine its continued validity and effectiveness.

The commissions have both an advisory function to the Executive Board and Assembly and a duty to perform the tasks assigned to them. Every Commission shall submit annually, through the BMU Office, a report reflecting its activity of the prior year and program for the current year.

The dead-line for submitting such reports shall be set by the Executive Board. Every Commission shall also submit its accounts and budget.

The Presidents of the Commissions take part in the Executive Board meetings preceding the annual Assemblies as well as in these Assemblies.

They may also take part in Assemblies held at other times if they choose or if they are requested by the Executive Board.

Members of all Commissions shall serve without compensation for renewable terms of four years. Every member association has the right to propose nominees. The names of all nominees should be present and accepted by the Executive Board.

Article 43

Honorary Functions

The activities of all bodies or Commissions of the BMU are conducted without compensation to the individuals who serve thereon, unless authorised otherwise by a specific Article of Union or vote by the Assembly. The expenses of all those of the members of any body or Commission of the BMU with the exception of those of the members of the Executive Board shall be borne by the association that the individual represents, unless authorised otherwise by specific vote of the Assembly.

Article 44

Minutes

Accurate minutes shall be kept of all meetings of all BMU bodies and Commissions. For any meeting of each such body or Commission a minute-keeper, who need not be a member of that body, shall be designated. Upon their approval, the presiding member of that body and the minute-keeper shall sign all such minutes, and a copy

shall be made available to every member of the relevant body, BMU Office and the Executive Board. The minutes of the Assembly and Executive Board meetings shall be sent to the member associations.

Article 45

IX. Withdrawal of Members

Any member association wishing to terminate membership at the end of the year, must inform the BMU Office in writing before the first August of that year.

Member associations, who, despite warning, act in a manner disruptive of or contrary to these Articles of Union, or to the harmony and best interests of the BMU, will be expelled by vote of the Assembly on recommendation of the Executive Board. In addition, member association who have not complied with their obligation to pay duties will be expelled by resolution of the Assembly.

X. Status changes

Article 46

BMU can unite and merge with other higher mountaineering organization, based on a decision taken by the Assembly, according to the Law on organization and foundations.

BMU can be divided in two or more organizations.

The decision for uniting, merging or dividing is taken by the Assembly with two thirds majority.

XI. Responsibility of duties

Article 47

For its duties, the BMU is responsible with all its possessions.

Members of BMU bodies have a personal responsibility for their duties towards BMU, for malversations of BMU funds, for achieving goals forbidden to them as individuals or for misconduct of BMU as a legal body.

XII. Damage Responsibility

Article 48

Members of bodies of BMU and the President of BMU are solidarily responsible for damage to the BMU caused by their work if it was done because of carelessness or deliberately, except when deciding one has stated his distinct thoughts in the minutes or didn't participate in the decision.

The Executive Board of the BMU requests reparations.

XIII. Financing and financial means of BMU

Article 49

All members of BMU cover their own expenses regarding the Assembly or Executive Board meetings. Mountaineering federation of the state where the meeting is taking place bears the expenses for the meeting.

All planned BMU revenues and expenditures shall be reconciled in the annual budget and all BMU bodies and Commissions shall be obliged to conform to budget approved by the Assembly.

Incomes will consist of admission and membership fees, donations from personal or legal entities, sponsorships etc.

All dues received from the member associations must be paid in the full prior to the end of April of each calendar year.

The financial year for the BMU shall be the calendar year.

XIV. Dissolution of BMU

Article 50

BMU ceases to exist in case of the following:

- Decision on its dissolution taken by the Assembly with two thirds majority
- A meeting has not been held even though the time that passed since the date foreseen of the Assembly meeting is doubled
- A financial statement, according to the law, has not been submitted two subsequent years
- Status change that foresees dissolution
- A decision of a competent court has been taken
- In other cases determined with the Law on organizations and foundations.

In cases stated in paragraphs 2 and 3 of chapter one of this article, a decision for dissolution is taken by the competent court upon a proposal by the President or the members of BMU bodies in case when the decision for dissolution is not taken by the Assembly.

XV. Handling the assets in case of dissolution of BMU

Article 51

In case of the dissolution of the BMU, all its assets, after payment of all debts, shall be transferred equally to its founders and members.

XVI. Acknowledgments and awards

Article 52

Certain members of BMU can be rewarded for their activities and the results they achieved.

Acknowledgment and rewards can be given to persons who are not members of the union or to other organizations and federations which contributed to the successful work and affirmation of the BMU.

The Executive Board proposes the acknowledgments and the rewards which are then decided by the Assembly.

XVII. Transitional and final stipulations

Article 53

The Assembly has the right to interpret the stipulations of this Statute. Between two Assemblies it is the Executive Board.

Article 54

Amendments of this Statute can be done in the same manner as it was adopted.

Article 55

This Statute comes into effect on the day it is stipulated.

Ref. no. 01-
May, 28th 2011
Skopje

For the BMU

Prof. Jovica Ugrinovski, MD
President